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Increasing in Size and Service

Again the time approaches when the members of the A. L. A. meet together to review the accomplishments of the year and renew the hopes and ideals for future work. This year we are to meet amidst unusual surroundings. The origins of American librarianship were rooted in New England. The literary traditions and associations of the locality are stimulating and inspiring. Amidst such surroundings, the Association should courageously face its new problems and possibilities and plan for larger and greater things. We have passed through a period of tests,—the test of amazing and resultful effort, crowned with success in the effective library service rendered during the war; and the test of discouragement which followed the effort for increased finance and enlarged activities.

Trials of both success and failure have, without doubt, clarified our vision and strengthened our confidence that the realities of library service are stable and enlarging. Out of these experiences, we should enter upon the next stage of library growth and development with courage, and with confidence in each other and in our work. The program of the Swampscott Conference will, we trust, be of interest and profit and contribute to this end. Let all plan to come with the spirit of cooperation and fellowship and with the expectation of a good time among the surroundings and traditions of New England.

Meantime, the intervening weeks between now and June 20th, will afford opportunity to roll up a long list of new members for the Association, if each member adds at least one new member. Gratifying as the growth has been since January 1st, all members should determine to have a part in bringing about an increase of not less than 25 per cent from the beginning of the year. Let this be our goal before June 20th.

An ardent belief in library service and a sincere endeavor to enlist all librarians in united effort in advancing it, means greater personal satisfaction in the day's work, as well as a strong and effective national organization. This is a joyous task for all.

Faithfully yours,

ALICE S. TYLER,
President.